

8 THE UNDER-WORLD OF THE DEAD

groves and burned them, he utterly destroyed the gardens, he ground the idols into powder, and further, in those places where those evils had been allowed, encouraged and practised, he caused that the very bones of the dead should be strewn, and Tophet, the Tabret grove, in the valley of Hinnom, from that time became the defiled, the cursed place, where the refuse of the city was cast and burned, and where the carcases of animals and even the dead bodies of criminals who had lived a life so vile as to be judged unworthy of respectable burial, were also placed. The worm preyed upon their putrid flesh and the fire burned continually day and night, being never quenched. From this time, Tophet, the gorge of the children of Hinnom, outside of the Holy City, became the appalling figure of hell, the place of everlasting punishment of the wicked.

It is now that we get the full import of the name Hinnom, wailing. "And shall cast them into the furnace of fire, there shall be wailing (Hinnom) and gnashing of teeth." Thus the terrible associations of this valley, the recollection of the awful horrors